

Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program
Grant Application

Project Name: Florence Port Harbor Dredging Project

Legal Name of Entity: Florence Lauderdale County Port Authority

Mailing Address: PO Box 1169, Florence, AL 35631

Name and Title of CEO: Hal Greer, Port Director

Name and Title of Contact: Hal Greer, Port Director

Phone Number & E-mail: 256-767-5388, halgreer@portofflorence.org

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Attachment B	Project Budget: Engineers Budget Cost Estimate US ACOE Funding Letter
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Section I: Project Activities

The project activities associated with this application include the excavation and disposal of approximately 58,630 cubic yards of spoil material from the Florence Port Harbor dredge disposal site. This site was declared full by the US Army Corps of Engineers following dredging completed in 2004. The dredge disposal site must be excavated to allow for disposal of the material to be dredged from the harbor. Following the excavation of the disposal site, project activities will include the actual dredging of the Florence Port Harbor to ensure adequate water depths are maintained for operational stability and disposal of the dredge material will be deposited in the excavated disposal site. This project is necessary given the poor water depth, especially during winter pool and the devastating effects of such on the operations located at the Florence Lauderdale County Port Authority facility. The Harbor hasn't been completely dredged in over 15 years and silting has made the water depth unmanageable for operations during low water times. The Hydrographic survey provided in Attachment A: Project Description of this application provides an overview of the water depths as they were in November 2013. As you can see in the survey, the water surface elevation was 411.8 and the dock areas of the port as well as the upper or eastern portion of the harbor bottom had elevations of 400 plus. Our typical winter pool elevations reside in the 408 to 410 range which means that our docks would have only 8 to 10 foot of water at best with only 4 to 6 feet of water in the eastern end of the harbor. Barges must have a minimum of 12 foot of water to be loaded efficiently and 9 foot to be fleeted. The lack of water depth poses great risk as well as loss of freight capacity which disables operational efficiency, costing time and money as well as the diversion of cargo tonnage to other ports or highway transport. Since the survey in 2013, the water depths have continued to deteriorate, and the letters of support and urgency in Attachment C provide a summary of the economic impact to the businesses that rely on the operational capability of the Port Harbor.

Section II: Project Program Priority Areas

The Florence Lauderdale County Port Authority (FLPA) proposes that the dredging of the Florence Port Harbor will provide for increased freight tonnage via the waterway as the operating docks will be able to load barges to full capacity year round and the harbor will have sufficient fleeting area to handle increased tonnage throughput. The FLPA facility handled an average of 476,419 tons of cargo over the previous 9 years as indicated on the Annual Tonnage Graph contained in Attachment A of this application, and we are on pace to handle approximately 350,000 tons this year. The reduced tonnage has resulted from import cargo tariffs on the aluminum handled for Constellium as well as lost capacity due to extremely low water levels this fall. This increased capability will result in additional tonnage handling at the FLPA. The expanded capacity of the FLPA harbor will also enhance regional competitiveness for the businesses operating in the port and the industries they serve as well. The agricultural community will realize cost savings through the state-of-the-art granary located at the FLPA, and companies such as Constellium Aluminum, Pine Bluff Materials, Dal-Tile and others that our tenant businesses serve through the port facility will reap cost savings with restored year-round operational stability at the facility. The FLPA grant application is fully supported by the governing bodies of the charter governments of the FLPA as well as the FLPA Board of Directors. Resolutions of Project Approval are contained in Attachment A of this application.

Section III: Applicant's Technical and Managerial Capabilities

The FLPA has more than adequate technical and managerial capabilities to handle the administration of the grant funding and manage the project. The FLPA has engaged Engineers

of the South for design and project oversight assistance, and Port Director Hal Greer has over 25 years of experience in port management including the oversight of dredging operations of an inland port harbor. The FLPA ensures that the project will be completed within the two year time frame from the effective date of the grant award.

Section IV: Applicant's Eligibility

The FLPA is a public port authority chartered under Chapter 94 of Title II, sections 11-94-1 et seq. of the Code of Alabama 1975 and sanctioned by the Alabama State Docks Department on June 30, 1981 following the authorization of the City of Florence and Lauderdale County in January 1981. It operates as a special district of local government under the guidance of a five member Board of Directors, two of which are appointed by the City of Florence, two appointed by Lauderdale County Commission and one of which is jointly appointed. It is a public agency under the definition of the internal revenue code chartered by the local governments and approved by the State of Alabama.

Section V: Project Budget

Total Project Cost	\$1,219,598
20% of Total Project Cost (Match)	\$ 243,920
80% of Total project Cost (Max Grant)	\$ 975,678
Total Grant Amount Requested 45%	\$ 550,000

A detailed budget estimate is contained in Attachment B of this application: Engineers Budget Cost Estimate. The letter detailing the obligation for funding of \$528,000 by the US Army Corps of Engineers is also included in Attachment B. The FLPA will provide the balance of required funding to complete the project, and the breakdown of funding by source is as follows:

Alabama Inland Port Funds	\$550,000
US Army Corps of Engineers	\$528,000
FLPA	<u>\$141,598</u>
Total Project Costs	\$1,219,598

Budget Item	Funding Amount and Source		Total
	Grant	Match	
Engineering/Design	\$ 76,336	\$ 92,935	\$ 169,271
Permits	\$ 11,184	\$ 13,616	\$ 24,800
Construction			
Materials	\$421,352	\$512,975	\$ 934,327
Labor	\$ 41,128	\$ 50,072	\$ 91,200
Other			
Materials			
Labor			
Total	\$550,000	\$669,598	\$1,219,598

Certifications

1. The applicant certifies that it is a (choose all that apply):

- ☒ Port authority
- ☐ Port commission
- ☐ Subdivision and/or agent under existing authority
- ☒ Political subdivision of a local government
- ☐ Tribal government
- ☒ Public agency
- ☐ Publicly chartered authority established by the state

2. The applicant certifies that the funds will not be used for routine maintenance, administrative and operational expenses, debt service, or for the dredging of waterways within the state that are not in the immediate vicinity of an inland port facility.

3. The applicant certifies receipt of a preliminary concurrence from the appropriate state agencies such as, Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Alabama Port Authority, or any other applicable authority or department.

Certification	
I, the undersigned, am authorized to obligate my entity and enter into agreements for my organization. I understand that the above certifications do not guarantee funding and a grant agreement will be executed prior to project funds being expended. I further understand that if the above statements cannot be verified, no grant funds will be awarded under this program. Finally, to the best of my knowledge the above certifications are true and correct.	
Signature of Applicant: <i>Y. Lal O'Brien</i>	Date: <i>12/10/19</i>
Title of Applicant: <i>PORT DIRECTOR</i>	

For more information regarding the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program, please send questions to inland.ports@adeca.alabama.gov, or call (334) 242-5292 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

State of Alabama – Disclosure Statement

Alabama Act 2001-955 requires the *State of Alabama Disclosure Statement* (Attachment D) to be completed and filed with all proposals, bids, contracts, and grant proposals to the State of Alabama in excess of \$5,000. A fillable PDF is available on our website at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/inlandports>. Complete all lines as indicated. If an item does not apply, denote 'N/A' (not applicable). If you cannot include required information in the space provided, attach additional sheets as necessary. **The form must be signed, dated, and notarized.**



State of Alabama Disclosure Statement

Required by Article 3B of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975

ENTITY COMPLETING FORM

FLORENCE LAUDERDALE COUNTY Port Authority

ADDRESS

PO Box 1169

CITY, STATE, ZIP

FLORENCE, AL 35631

TELEPHONE NUMBER

256-767-5388

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT THAT WILL RECEIVE GOODS, SERVICES, OR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANT AWARD

ADECA

ADDRESS

401 Adams Ave

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Montgomery, AL 36104

TELEPHONE NUMBER

334-242-5100

This form is provided with:

☐

Contract

☐

Proposal

☐

Request for Proposal

☐

Invitation to Bid

☒

Grant Proposal

Have you or any of your partners, divisions, or any related business units previously performed work or provided goods to any State Agency/Department in the current or last fiscal year?

☐

Yes

☒

No

If yes, identify below the State Agency/Department that received the goods or services, the type(s) of goods or services previously provided, and the amount received for the provision of such goods or services.

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT	TYPE OF GOODS/SERVICES	AMOUNT RECEIVED
N/A		

Have you or any of your partners, divisions, or any related business units previously applied and received any grants from any State Agency/Department in the current or last fiscal year?

☒

Yes

☐

No

If yes, identify the State Agency/Department that awarded the grant, the date such grant was awarded, and the amount of the grant.

STATE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT	DATE GRANT AWARDED	AMOUNT OF GRANT
ADECA/GENERAL FUND APPROP.	10/1/19	\$130,000

1. List below the name(s) and address(es) of all public officials/public employees with whom you, members of your immediate family, or any of your employees have a family relationship and who may directly personally benefit financially from the proposed transaction. Identify the State Department/Agency for which the public officials/public employees work. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL/EMPLOYEE	ADDRESS	STATE DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
N/A		

2. List below the name(s) and address(es) of all family members of public officials/public employees with whom you, members of your immediate family, or any of your employees have a family relationship and who may directly personally benefit financially from the proposed transaction. Identify the public officials/public employees and State Department/Agency for which the public officials/public employees work. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	ADDRESS	NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL/ PUBLIC EMPLOYEE	STATE DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY WHERE EMPLOYED
-----------------------	---------	---	--

N/A

If you identified individuals in items one and/or two above, describe in detail below the direct financial benefit to be gained by the public officials, public employees, and/or their family members as the result of the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Describe in detail below any indirect financial benefits to be gained by any public official, public employee, and/or family members of the public official or public employee as the result of the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

List below the name(s) and address(es) of all paid consultants and/or lobbyists utilized to obtain the contract, proposal, request for proposal, invitation to bid, or grant proposal:

NAME OF PAID CONSULTANT/LOBBYIST	ADDRESS
----------------------------------	---------

N/A

By signing below, I certify under oath and penalty of perjury that all statements on or attached to this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that a civil penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the transaction, not to exceed \$10,000.00, is applied for knowingly providing incorrect or misleading information.

Y. Sal Greer
Signature

12/12/19
Date

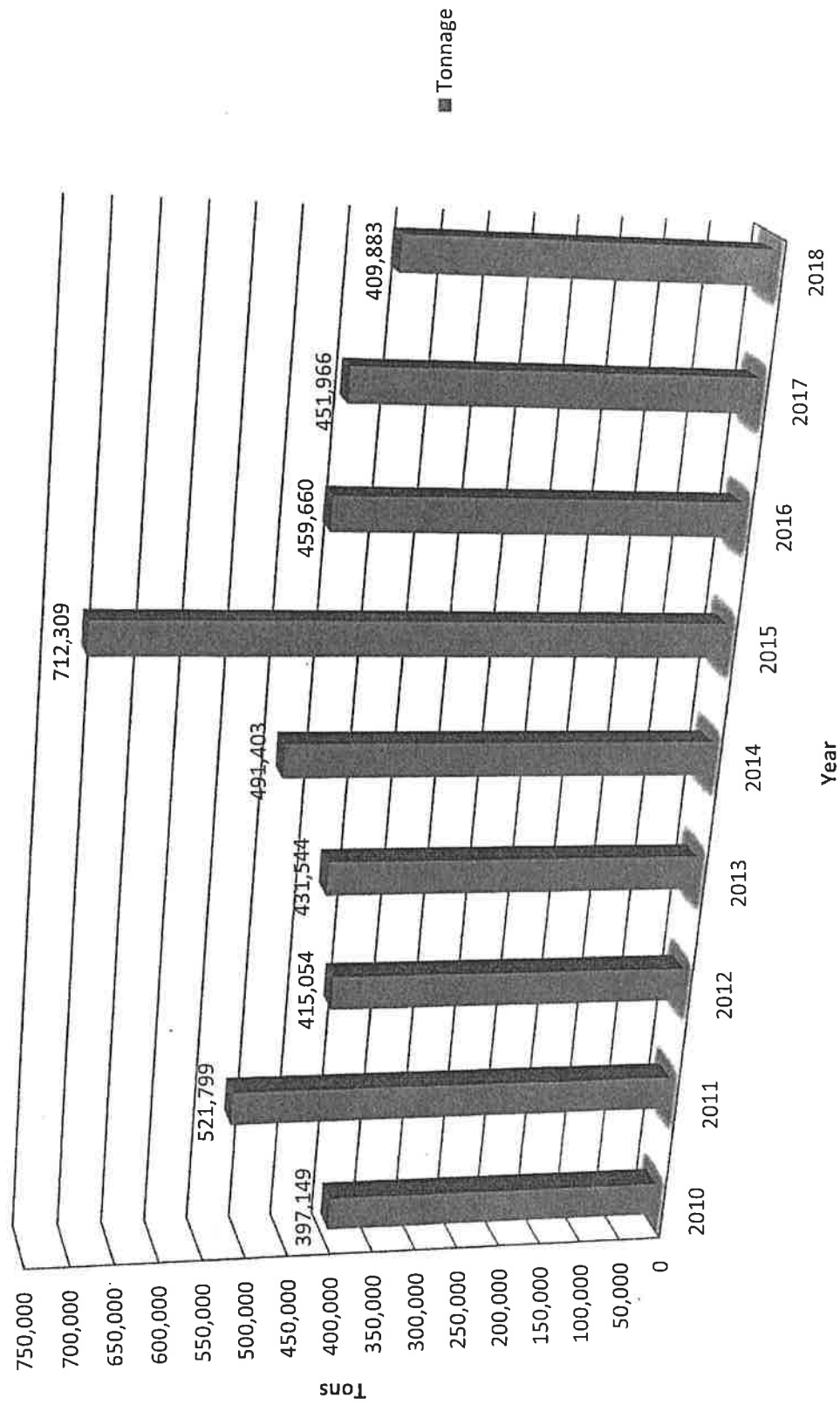
[Signature]
Notary's Signature

12-12-19
Date

5-20-20
Date Notary Expires

Article 3B of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975 requires the disclosure statement to be completed and filed with all proposals, bids, contracts, or grant proposals to the State of Alabama in excess of \$5,000.

Annual Tonnage 2010 - 2018



RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING APPLICATION TO
THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
FOR ALABAMA INLAND PORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDS
FOR DREDGING THE FLORENCE PORT HARBOR

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority shall complete its application for Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority concurs with objectives, needs and program activities proposed therein, and

WHEREAS, priorities for proposed program activities adopted by the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority were determined in accordance with State and Federal guidelines and determination on eligibility of activities, and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor is operationally affected by low water, especially during winter pool levels, causing extreme losses to tenant businesses and those served by their terminals, and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor hasn't been dredged for over 15 years and silting is causing inadequate operational capabilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Florence Lauderdale County Port Authority:

1. That said application shall be designated as the official application for the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority to be submitted to the ADECA upon completion for Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Funds in the amount of \$550,000.
2. That the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority pledges matching funds in the amount of \$141,598.
3. That the US Army Corps of Engineers has authorized \$528,000 in federal funds for dredging the Florence Port Harbor which will provide the balance of necessary funding for the project,
4. That the President is duly authorized to sign said application for and act on behalf of the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority and is further authorized to execute all other documents required for application or disbursement of Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Funds for the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of November, 2019.


Katy Beth Carr, President
Florence Lauderdale County Port Authority

ATTEST:


Darlene Ballard, Secretary/Treasurer

Sponsor: Mayor Holt

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority is submitting an application for Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program funds; and

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port serves as an economic engine for the entire Shoals region; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor is operationally affected by low water, especially during winter pool levels, causing extreme losses to tenant businesses and those served by their terminals; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor has not been dredged for over 15 years and silting is causing inadequate operational capabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ALABAMA, that the same does hereby endorse and support the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for Alabama Inland Port Program funds to dredge the Florence Port Harbor.

ADOPTED this 3RD day of DECEMBER, 2019,



[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

Michelle Pope Fubanks

[Signature]

[Signature]
CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 3RD day of DECEMBER, 2019,

[Signature]
MAYOR

ADOPTED & APPROVED this 3RD day of DECEMBER, 2019.

[Signature]
CITY CLERK

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority is submitting an application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program funds for dredging the Florence Port Harbor; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Lauderdale County Port serves as an economic engine for the entire Shoals region; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor is operationally affected by low water, especially during winter pool levels, causing extreme losses to tenant businesses and those served by their terminals; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor hasn't been dredged for over 15 years and silting is causing inadequate operational capabilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lauderdale County Commission that the same does hereby endorse and support the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for Alabama Inland Port Program funds to dredge the Florence Port Harbor.

Done this the 9th day of December, 2019.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION



Danny Pettus, Chairman



Roger Garner, Commissioner



Brad Holmes, Commissioner



Fay Parker, Commissioner



Joe Hackworth, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Brenda Bryant, County Administrator



November 15, 2019

Mr. Hal Greer
Florence-Lauderdale Port Authority
P.O. Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Re: Updated Dredging Estimate

Dear Hal:

Per your request, we have updated the previous cost estimate for dredging the Port. The unit prices within the estimate were adjusted by the appropriate Consumer Price Index. This estimate extends the dredging approximately 2 barge lengths (400') beyond the point where the Port narrows.

Florence Lauderdale Port Authority
Dredging Project
Engineers' Estimated Total Project Cost

November 15, 2019

Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total
Preparation of Disposal Site				
Excavator	2	MO	\$7,210	\$14,420
Hauling and Disposal	58630	CY	\$3.61	\$211,654
Stormwater Permitting & Monitoring	1	LS	\$12,400	\$12,400
BMP's	1	LS	\$15,500	\$15,500
Crew & Equipment	8	WK	\$5,700	\$45,600
Dredging & On-Site Disposal				
Bathymetric Surveys	1	LS	\$38,600	\$38,600
Mechanical Dredging	58630	CY	\$9.30	\$545,259
Excavator for Offloading & Handling	2	MO	\$7,200	\$14,400
Dump Truck for Handling	2	MO	\$3,100	\$6,200
Stormwater Permitting & Monitoring	1	LS	\$12,400	\$12,400
BMP's	1	LS	\$15,500	\$15,500
Crew & Equipment	8	WK	\$5,700	\$45,600
Finish Grade & Grass	8	AC	\$1,550	\$12,400
SubTotal =				\$989,933
Contingency (10%) =				\$98,993
Total Estimated Construction Cost =				\$1,088,927
Legal, Engineering & Admin (12%) =				\$130,671
Estimated Total Project Cost =				\$1,219,598

If you have any questions or we can assist further, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
Engineers of the South, LLC



Robert E. Pride, PE
Principal Engineer

CC: File: P:\PA-Port Authority\Archive\Dredging Project\Cost Estimates\PA-0000 Cost Est Ltr 11-15-19.docx



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1070
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202-1070

July 17, 2014

Operations Division

Mr. Hal Greer
Port Director
Florence-Lauderdale Port Authority
P.O. Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Dear Mr. Greer,

Thank you for your June 25, 2014 letter. As a way of introduction, I would like to explain why I am responding to your letter instead of Ms. Coffey. I am the Nashville District's Operation Division's Chief, but was on a temporary assignment until May of this year. In my absence, Ms. Coffey, my Deputy Chief, was the acting Division Chief.

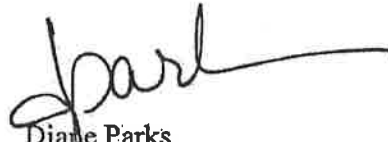
Regarding the recent decision to include the district's \$204,000 effort to construct the Sweetwater Creek Diversion against the \$1,100,000 O&M obligation, I had my staff look further into the agreement made during the planning of the project. It has been confirmed that the government's portion of the work was not to be counted against this obligation, which is now modified to total \$528,000. A copy of the updated ledger has been included for your records.

To address the mooring dolphin we erected in 2007, even during its construction, it was credited against the government's operations and maintenance responsibility. An email sent to Mr. Loew soon after its construction, and included in the letter you sent to Ms. Coffey on March 20, 2014, confirms this. Although the government did fabricate the first of the two dolphins the port planned to erect, this effort improves a single dock and does not fall within the "general navigation" definition as delineated in the Local Cooperative Agreement. The government will not be able to construct the second mooring dolphin.

I am pleased that you are actively searching for a disposal site for future dredge material. This will be of benefit if/when future maintenance dredging is necessary in either the general navigation area of the port or for your tenants.

As stated in the April 17, 2014 letter you received from this office, Gerald Choat at Wilson Lock (256-764-5223 or Gerald.D.Choat@usace.army.mil), Donald Dean at Wheeler Lock (256-247-3311 or Donald.L.Dean@usace.army.mil), or Mr. Ross (615-736-7996 or Jeffrey.Ross@usace.army.mil), remain available if you have further needs or questions.

Sincerely,



Diane Parks
Chief, Operations Division

Port of Florence O&M
USACE Expenditures

July 17, 2014

Year	Description	Cost (\$1,000s)
2000	Concrete Block Removal at Harbor Entrance	30
	Channel Survey	3
2001	Obstruction search in Harbor	20
	Channel Survey	3
2002	Channel Survey (M/V Multibeam)	9
2003	Pipe Removal near Amcor Mooring Cells (including divers)	225
2004	Consultation re: Mooring Cells and Sweetwater Creek	2
	Channel Survey	3
2005	Dredging Far End of Harbor with Upland Placement (One time allowance for overfill at Disposal Site)	83
2006	Channel Survey	3
2007	Install Mooring Dolphin	191
	Government O&M Responsibility \$1,100k	572
	Balance	528



ALABAMA STATE SENATE
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET, SUITE 732
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600

TIM MELSON
SENATOR
DISTRICT 1
MONTGOMERY
(334) 261-0773
TIM.MELSON@ALSENATE.GOV

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION POLICY, CHAIR
FINANCE & TAXATION EDUCATION, VICE CHAIR
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, & FORESTRY
HEALTHCARE
RULES
TOURISM

December 10, 2019

Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36103

RE: Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program Grant application

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority is submitting an application to the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program to dredge the Florence Port Harbor. This project will provide for increased freight tonnage via the waterway and will also enhance regional competitiveness for the businesses operating in the port and the industries they serve as well.

The Florence Port is a great asset and resource to Florence, Lauderdale County, and the entire Shoals Region. It is imperative that our Port remain in a good state of repair to allow the Shoals Area to continue to enhance our economic competitiveness for the region and the state. Please give your utmost consideration to this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Melson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Tim Melson
Alabama Senate District 1



Shoals Economic Development Authority

20 Hightower Place, Suite 1 • Florence, AL 35630
Phone (256) 349-5632 • Fax (256) 764-3850 • www.seda-shoals.com

December 12, 2019

Mr. Jesse Turner
Director of Planning & Transportation
NACOLG
103 Student Drive
P.O. Box 2603
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662
Via: jturner@nacolg.org

Dear Jesse:

Thank you for your efforts in working to help secure funding to alleviate issues with the Port of Florence, particularly the need for dredging.

The Port of Florence is an important partner to our industries and a vital artery to enable the flow of goods and commerce in the Shoals. The Shoals Economic Development Authority supports the efforts of NACOLG to access funds to ensure the longevity of this great asset to our community.

The Shoals is a very pro-business community and we want to do everything we can to assist, grow, and nurture our existing industries. It is very important in our business to alleviate concerns and mitigates risks to potential growth to our existing and new potential companies. Please let me know as we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jackson
Vice President

Shoals Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization

RESOLUTION 20-07

**SUPPORTING THE FLORENCE-LAUDERDALE PORT AUTHORITY'S APPLICATION TO
THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
FOR ALABAMA INLAND PORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDS
FOR DREDGING THE FLORENCE PORT HARBOR**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as recipient of Shoals Urbanized Area planning funds for the Shoals Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and who is responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended by the FAST Act, Sections 1201 and 1202, December 2015); 42 USC 2000d-1, 7401; 23 CFR 450 and 500; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority is submitting an application for Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the Florence-Lauderdale County Port serves as an economic engine for the entire Shoals region, and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor is operationally affected by low water, especially during winter pool levels, causing extreme losses to tenant businesses and those served by their terminals, and

WHEREAS, the Florence Port Harbor hasn't been dredged for over 15 years and silting is causing inadequate operational capabilities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Shoals Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that the same does hereby endorse and support the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for Alabama Inland Port Program funds to dredge the Florence Port Harbor.

ADOPTED THIS 10th DAY OF December 2019

SIGNED: 
Kerry Underwood, Chairman

ATTEST: 



November 27, 2019

Mr. Hal Greer
Port Director
PO Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Dear Mr. Hal Greer:

Tennessee Southern Railroad is in full support of the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for funding from the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program. The funding to dredge the Florence Port Harbor is critical to our long-term sustainability and ability to remain competitive in the marketplace. We must rectify the low water problem in the harbor to ensure our capability to do business with those we serve in the region without costly operational interruptions and constant logistical problems due to low water levels. Thus, to exemplify the situation; The recent low water levels could have been a costly situation for our company. In 2019, we have experienced the lowest water levels yet. The last barge we received, at the Patton Island location, had to be unloaded at a lower dock that is approximately a quarter of a mile away from our storage location. The crawler crane and the hopper had to be moved to that dock. The material had to be transported by dump trucks back to storage. This added more fuel charge and wages to our expenses. Tennessee Southern Railroad has averaged a loss of \$175,000 to \$200,000 in last 5 years due to low water conditions.

Sincerely,
Port Manager
Michael Phillips



RMB Marine Services, LLC

Port of Florence & Yellow Creek Port

914 E. Bluff Street
Florence, AL 35630

(256) 766-7635 Office
(601) 405-2155 Bus. Cell
rmburchfield@gmail.com

November 26, 2019

Mr. Hal Greer
Port Director
PO Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Dear Mr. Greer:

As you are aware our business has and continues to be negatively impacted by the low water levels present in the Florence Port Harbor. We have had to suspend operations, divert cargos and change our operational activities at a great loss to our company as well as our customers. This situation is affecting our ability to operate with any efficiency whatsoever, and it has a major impact on the competitive edge that water transport opportunities provide not to mention the adverse pressure on strategic sustainability.

The economic impact has caused the Port of Florence negative growth to potential vendors/customers concerning barge fleet and servicing. With the harbor being so shallow, it has affected the number of barges we can fleet and unable to get barges to docks properly to load or unload. The financial cost to our company in growth and present losses over the past 5 years has been approximately \$500,000.00.

It is with the above in mind that RMB Marine Services, LLC is in full support of the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for funding from the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program. The funding to dredge the Florence Port Harbor is critical to our long-term sustainability and ability to remain competitive in the marketplace. We must rectify the low water problem in the harbor to ensure our capability to do business with those we serve in the region without costly operational interruptions and constant logistical problems due to low water levels.

Sincerely,

Mark Burchfield
RMB Marine Services, LLC
914 E. Bluff St.
Florence, AL 35630
(256) 766-7635 Office
rmburchfield@gmail.com

MCDANIEL SERVICE, LLC

P.O. Box 206, Florence, AL 35631
Phone (256) 767-7576
mcdanielservice@bellsouth.net

December 5, 2019

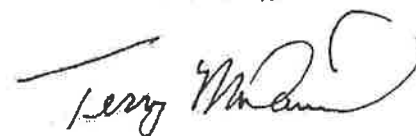
Mr. Hal Greer
Port Director
PO Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Dear Mr. Greer:

I am writing to you in regards to concerns I have pertaining to the low water levels present in the Florence Port Harbor. As you are aware, I owned and operated a river terminal in the Port of Florence from 2007 to 2017, and over the years encountered many episodes of low water levels in the Port that hampered and at times crippled my operation. As you are also aware, I have sold that operation and am now a tenant in the Port without waterfront property. However, I am currently in negotiations with three different companies to secure one or more contracts to re-establish my stevedoring operation at the city dock. Once I am established at said dock, the low water levels are sure to again cause disruptions and potential vessel damage during winter pool operations.

It is with the above in mind that McDaniel Service, LLC is in full support of the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for funding from the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program. The funding to dredge the Florence Port Harbor will be critical to our long-term sustainability and ability to remain competitive in the marketplace. We must rectify the low water problem in the harbor to ensure our capability to do business with those we will serve in the region without costly operational interruptions and constant logistical problems due to low water levels.

Sincerely,



AMERICAN METAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION
3546 South Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60609



November 26, 2019

Mr. Hal Greer
Port Director
PO Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Dear Mr. Greer:

As you are aware our business has and continues to be negatively impacted by the low water levels present in the Florence Port Harbor. We have had to suspend operations, divert cargos and change our operational activities at a great loss to our company as well as our customers. This situation is affecting our ability to operate with any efficiency whatsoever, and it has a major impact on the competitive edge that water transport opportunities provide not to mention the adverse pressure on strategic sustainability.

AMCOR's main concern with water level at our dock is that the base is solid rock. We cannot dredge to gain any depth; therefore, our business's health is at the mercy of the water level on a daily basis. When receiving product, it is critical for the barge to get close and up to the dock. If we are unable to get onto the barge to remove the lid, we cannot unload the received product. Material costs significantly increase when we are not able to unload the barge during our standard procedure time. There is also a cost difference between having a 9-foot draft and the winter drafts that are kept at 8 feet. If AMCOR is not able to utilize or maximize the whole barge, we see another significant increase in our material costs. If a barge is not able to begin unloading due to height levels, we begin transferring product in from our other locations, shipping costs alone are upwards of \$50,000 per year.

Along with the financial burden, tension is put on our relationship with our vendors due to the river navigation throughout the year. As the harbor continues to fill up with silt from the Sweetwater Stream during flooding, navigation becomes a challenge for barges that are loaded. They begin to drag on the riverbed causing issues for any tenant who has a soft base next to their dock. There is an additional cost for each occurrence that requires a tugboat to assist in any moving or maneuvering of the barge at the dock. There is additional economic loss to our suppliers and carriers, many of which are local, when we divert volumes and production away from our Florence facility.

AMCOR has been an asset to the harbor business, the community, and surrounding companies we service in the Southeast. It is critical that Florence Harbor is maintained to continue operation.

It is with the above in mind that American Metal Chemical Corporation is in full support of the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for funding from the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program. The funding to dredge the Florence Port Harbor is critical to our long-term sustainability and ability to remain competitive in the marketplace. We must rectify the low water problem in the harbor to ensure our capability to do business with those we serve in the region without costly operational interruptions and constant logistical problems due to low water levels.

Sincerely,

Meredith Davis
Controller
773-254-1818x114
mdavis@amcor-usa.com



ALABAMA FARMERS COOPERATIVE, INC.
GRAIN DIVISION

P.O. Box 2227 • Decatur, AL 35609-2227 • Phone 256-308-1684 • Fax 256-351-8424

December 5, 2019

Mr. Hal Greer
Port Director
PO Box 1169
Florence, AL 35631

Dear Mr. Greer:

As you are aware, our business has and continues to be negatively impacted by low water levels in the Florence harbor. We have had to suspend operations, divert cargo and change our operational activities at a great loss to our company as well as our customers. This situation is affecting our ability to operate with any efficiency whatsoever, and it also has a major impact on the competitive edge that water transport opportunities provide.

In the past four years we have incurred average losses of \$50,000 per year in dead freight cost (not able to load full draft), \$10,000 per year in extra fleeting cost to work the dock for grounded barges, and \$35,000 per year of additional cost to carry inventory until better water conditions are present. Also, we have incurred an additional \$25,000 per year cost to load inventory from another facility/port that is not logistically advantageous relative to Florence. Conservatively, we estimate our average annual cost due to low water in the Florence harbor at \$120,000 per year. 2019 has been right on par with this trend as we struggled early in the year with low water and the most recent months have proven to be even more difficult, shutting our operation down for a week or more at a time. Our losses in 2019 have already surpassed \$100,000.

It is with the above in mind that Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc. is in full support of the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority's application for funding from the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program. The funding to dredge the Florence Port Harbor is critical to our long-term sustainability and ability to remain competitive in the marketplace. We must rectify the low water problem in the harbor to ensure our capability to do business with those we serve in the region without costly operational interruptions and constant logistical problems due to low water levels.

Sincerely,

John T. Gamble
Vice President, Grain Division